

2185 RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Chapter: **Sununu Youth Services Center**

Section: **Religious Programs**



New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual

Policy Directive:

Approved:

Effective Date: **May 15, 2010**

Scheduled Review Date:

William W. Fenniman, DJJS Director

Related Statute(s): [RSA 169-B](#), [RSA 621](#), and [RSA 621-A](#)

Related Admin Rule(s):

Related Federal Regulation(s):

Related Form(s):

Bridges' Screen(s) and Attachment(s):

The SYSC provides religious programs to residents, including program coordination and supervision and opportunities to practice the requirements of one's faith.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the religious program.

Policy

- I. Free Exercise of Religion: Pursuant to New Hampshire RSA 169-B:33, no minor under the supervision of any state institution shall be denied the free exercise of the minor's own religion or the religion of the parents, whether living or dead, nor the liberty of worshipping God according thereto.
- II. Systematic Approach to Religious Belief: SYSC takes a systematic approach to determine each resident's religious beliefs and practices and to ensure that they are accommodated: (1) the JPPO fills out the Youth Information Sheet for each resident, which includes information on the resident's religious beliefs, (2) the Admissions Officer asks about religious beliefs during the intake assessment and includes them as part of the Face Sheet; (3) the Intake Clinician incorporates a resident's religious beliefs as part of the Psychosocial Assessment; and (4) the Chaplain conducts a Spiritual assessment of each resident.
- III. SYSC Chaplain: The SYSC Chaplain shall coordinate the facility's religious programs. All residents shall have access to the SYSC Chaplain, as appropriate. Religious services and programs shall be offered to all residents regardless of their religious beliefs. If necessary, community resources may be utilized to provide necessary services, including bringing someone in to SYSC to provide services, or arranging for the resident to go into the community for services.
- IV. Weekly Religious Growth Activities: The following spiritual awareness and growth activities are provided to residents at SYSC. These programs are voluntary and are available to all residents.
 - A. Weekly Chapel Services.
 - B. Weekly Bible Study Groups
 - C. Spiritually based drug and alcohol counseling.
 - D. Spiritually based individual counseling.

- E. Opportunities to share request for prayer.
 - F. Spiritual ordinances when desired (e.g., Baptism, Communion).
 - G. Community service opportunities (e.g., directly helping others in a soup kitchen, shelter).
- V. Opportunity to Participate in Religious Practice: Residents shall have the opportunity to participate in practices of their religious faith that are deemed essential by the faith's judicatory, limited only by documentation showing threat to the safety of persons involved in such activity or that the activity itself disrupts the order in the facility. Residents will participate in religious services and counseling on a voluntary basis.
- VI. Clinical Manager: The Clinical Manager will oversee the SYSC religious services and counseling. Annually a systematic assessment of the personnel requirements for religious programs will be conducted to ensure all residents have access to staff and services.